(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The earlier rules has been modified and now no penalty is charged from such senior citizens who fall to produce any prescribed age proof. Only difference of concessional fare paid and the non-concessional fare payable is collected.

**Use of plastic sleepers by Railways**

†1431. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering to use plastic sleepers in place of wooden and RCC sleepers being used presently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what would be its quality;

(c) whether plastic sleepers will be manufactured as per requirement; and

(d) if so, the names of places where factories are proposed to be set up for manufacturing such sleepers and what would be the annual production in each such factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. For use on Girder Bridges, as an alternative to wooden sleepers, trials are being conducted.

(b) Two types of sleepers *viz.* Fibre Reinforced (FRP) and Advanced Composite sleepers have been successfully tested and field trials are in progress. Sleepers will be conforming to Railways' specifications and of approved quality.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No decision has been taken to set up factories for manufacturing of such sleepers as yet, as the trials are still on. These are being developed by private manufacturers as per Railways' requirements.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.